

Testimony

Education Committee Public Hearing

March 1st 2023 10:00am

The Honorable Senator Douglas McCrory, Co-Chair

The Honorable House Representative Jeff Currey, Co-Chair

And all members of the Education Committee

Re: S.B. 1095 - An Act Concerning School Resource Officers

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, and Education Committee Members:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 1095, an Act Concerning School Resource Officers. I have a dual Master's degree in Public Health and Social Work with a concentration in Urban Policy and Community Organizing.

It is unfortunate that a **School Resource Officer (SROs) does not have to be trained or certified. As a public health professional, this is very concerning to me.** I believe that there are many other ways that we can support a productive learning environment for youth. As a youth, I served over two years at Hartford Detention Center and at Long Lane School. I returned to a high school with SROs that had distracting walkie-talkies and punitive on-edge behavior. It did not feel like school, but rather like a prison.

I would not want this for any other children and feel that we can do better with all of the research and resources that are accessible today. I ask that we expand the definition, training, and certification to people who can connect with young people in other ways. We must allow kids to feel safe and supported at all times. In order to do that, we must expand our definition of a School Resource Officer (SRO). Thank you.

This issue is important to me because

- I am a Public health Professional
- Was a troubled youth who had difficulty learning with police-like presence

Thank you for your time,



Sandy Lomonico